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IN THE FIRST QUARTER IN
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LAUNDERING 3.3 MILLION
PATACAS, THE JUDICIARY POLICE
ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY**

P4

China is continuing to combat a virus cluster in its northeastern province of Jilin, with four out of five new cases reported yesterday in the region north of Beijing. Authorities believe the outbreak may have begun among a group of family members and friends who gathered for dining and drinking without social distancing. Just 87 people are still under treatment, while 375 others are under isolation and monitoring.



South Korean students began returning to classes yesterday as the country counted 32 new coronavirus cases. It was the first time in nine days that the daily increase was above 30. South Korea relaxed much of its social distancing rules in early May, but then saw a spike in new infections linked to nightclubs in Seoul. *More on p8*

Singapore, which has one of the highest infection rates in Asia, plans to exit a partial lockdown June 1 over three phases. Officials say businesses that do not pose a high risk of transmission can reopen June 2 but some retail shops, personal services and dining at restaurants will remain shut. Schools will reopen in phases and families can visit each other, but are limited to one visit a day and not more than two guests in a household.

India In major relief for tens of thousands of migrant workers eager to return to their home villages, Indian Railways announced plans to double the number of special trains and add 200 new trains from June 1. The railway said it has transported more than 2.1 million laborers in over 1,600 trains in the past 19 days. Passengers are required to wear masks and undergo health screenings before boarding. The return home of a huge number of workers has raised fears that many could carry infections with them.

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RENATO MARQUES

LAST APPEAL

Organizers take police ban on
Tiananmen vigil to court P2,3





HEALTH AUTHORITIES BACK PSP DECISION ON JUNE 4 VIGIL

RENATO MARQUES

HEALTH authorities at the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center, have backed the Public Security Police Force's (PSP) decision of not authorizing the annual June 4 vigil in Senado Square.

Questioned on the main topic at yesterday's daily press conference, Dr. Alvis Lo reaffirmed that the milestone reached by Macau whereby there are no active cases of Covid-19 recorded, was "achieved by the efforts of the population."

"We managed to tackle all the

cases and avoid an outbreak in the community because all the people collaborated [in complying with the measures enforced]," added Lo.

According to the medical doctor, "it is not the time to lower our guard. We must continue with the epidemic control work."

Speaking on behalf of health authorities, Lo added that since the beginning of the outbreak, the authorities have always recommended citizens to avoid all types of gatherings, a fact that remains unaltered and justifies the opinion given by the PSP on the vigil. "We are keeping the same re-

commendations as before. In the future when we consider that conditions are better, we can slowly reduce some restrictions," he said.

The representative of the PSP to the Center, Lei Tak Fai, said that the decision taken by the PSP not to authorize the vigil had been based on the opinion of the health authorities that considered the activity as "unsafe" from a public health point-of-view.

Lei also added, "We are doing the same thing as everyone else around the world to avoid a high concentration of people and the government has also appealed for the non-gathering of a high number of people."

The representative of the Macao Government Tourism Office, Inês Chan, reinforced Lo's words, noting that Macau people cannot lower their guard, and added that the government's priority at the moment is to "keep a balance between facilitating the circulation of people and [ensuring] public safety."

Regarding other public events that have already occurred and have been authorized under certain conditions, such as the May 1 gathering and upcoming sporting events, the health authorities declined to comment on any "particular cases."

HK PUBLIC BROADCASTER TO HALT SHOW AFTER POLICE COMPLAINT

VINICY CHAN

HONG Kong's public broadcaster said it would suspend the long-running satirical television program "Headliner" after the Communications Authority reprimanded it for its portrayal of the city's police.

Radio Television Hong Kong will also review the program, which first aired in the 1980s, to study how to develop the show "in an ever changing social environment," according to a report on its website Tuesday night. The broadcaster apologized to any police officers or others who were offended, the report said.

"We will apologize for what we've done wrong, and stand firm for what we've done right," RTHK

spokeswoman Man-ye Ng said on Tuesday night via a Facebook Live feed on the broadcaster's official page.

"Headliner" sparked protests from some groups supporting Hong Kong police, and public complaints to the broadcasting watchdog, after a Feb. 14 episode jokingly implied cops could more easily get protective gear than other officials, including medical staff. Police Chief Chris Tang said he complained to RTHK and the Communications Authority and expressed regret that the program "ridiculed" cops.

The Communications Authority on Tuesday found some complaints regarding the Feb. 14 episode were substantiated, including those regarding factual content and "denigration of and

insult to the police." It decided to warn RTHK to more closely observe relevant provisions in Hong Kong's TV Programme Code, according to a statement.

"RTHK accepts the verdicts from the CA and we will follow up with this program," Ng said. "This program will be suspended after this season as we have to do some follow-up and surveys about it." RTHK's online report said it would also take down the Feb. 14 episode from its website.

The dispute over RTHK comes as pro-democracy supporters, who sparred with police for months last year in sometimes-violent protests, grow increasingly concerned about Beijing's efforts to clamp down on political dissent in the city.

BLOOMBERG

HK, MACAU AFFAIRS OFFICE BOSS LEAVES NATIONAL POSITION

XIA Baolong, director of the Hong Kong & Macau Affairs Office, has left his post at the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC).

Xia had just been appointed to the SARs' affairs office in February of this year. On Tuesday, a CPPCC vote decided that Xia will no longer be Secretary-General of CPPCC. However, he retains his position as vice-chairman of the organization.

Since Xia started his job at the Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office, he has not made any public appearances.

According to a news report by Hong Kong media, only on April 23 did Xia meet with Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie

Lam, in Shenzhen, to discuss matters related to Hong Kong's legislative council election, which is expected to be held this September, and the legislation of Article 23 of the Basic Law in Hong Kong. Article 23 stipulates that Hong Kong "shall enact laws on its own to prohibit any act of treason, secession, sedition, subversion against the central government."

Li Bin, deputy head of the National Health Commission, will succeed Xia as the new CPPCC secretary-general.

Some media analysis, including from the South China Morning Post, is speculating that Xia will focus more on Hong Kong affairs as a result of the role change.

Xia is a former close aide to President Xi Jinping and served as Communist Party chief of Zhejiang province during the crackdown on Christian churches.

Xia is one of the highest state-level leaders managing the SARs' affairs of office. He has an extensive background in the tenure of important positions within the Chinese Communist Government.

The rare appointment of such a senior official potentially signals a permanent overhaul in how Beijing manages the former British colony. The Communist Party issued a communique late last year signaling an intention of greater intervention in Hong Kong's affairs, from education to how the city picks its leader. **JZ**

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Times

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Advertisement advertising@macaudailytimes.com
For subscription and general issues: general@macaudailytimes.com | Printed at Welfare Printing Ltd

RENATO MARQUES



Organizer to appeal police ban on 31-year-old Tiananmen vigil

ANTHONY LAM, JULIE ZHU

AU Kam San, lawmaker and co-organizer of the annual June 4 vigil in the city, has informed the Times that he will file a judicial appeal in response to the Public Security Police Force's (PSP) decision not to allow the event to proceed on the grounds of Covid-19 pandemic control.

The news was first reported by Portuguese public broadcaster TDM. When asked by the Times to verify the news, Au gave an immediate confirmation. "Yes," the lawmaker said, without even hearing the entire question. "We received a letter of denial from the police."

Inheriting laws from the pre-1999 Portuguese government, organizers of civil assemblies and protests in Macau do not need to apply for permission. Instead, the organizing resident is only required to notify the competent authority no earlier than 15 days prior to the event.

Notice was to be made to the municipal authority, according to the law, be that the City Council before 1999, or the Provisional City Council, the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau or the Municipal Affairs Bureau after 1999. Last year, the law was changed and the competent authority became the PSP.

At yesterday's police press conference, the PSP said that the department has consulted the Health Bureau and that, in view of the current Covid-19 situation, it has decided to ban the demonstration. As to which law the PSP has cited in order to back up the ban, the PSP did not make any further statement during the press conference. No further comments were given.

Local democrat Kam Sut Leng was not convinced by the police's explanation. "We have seen more than 40 days without a new

Covid-19 case already," Kam noted. "We are even seeing schools resuming and business running nearly as normal."

Some commentators yesterday contrasted the decision to prohibit the vigil with the green light given to the Dragon Boat Festival later that same month.

In Kam's opinion, prohibiting the vigil citing the pandemic as a reason is a bad and dangerous precedent to set.

"Selectively obstructing events because of that reason is a repression of civil society and violation of freedom of speech," the democrat pointed out. "The vigil has been extremely peaceful and orderly in the past 30 years."

Au was forced to suspend his annual June 4 exhibition as the Municipal Affairs Bureau earlier reversed its initial green light for the event. Since the event is not a civil assembly or protest, it is not

governed by the aforementioned law.

Although not an organizer, Kam is supportive of filing a judicial appeal to the administrative decision, an action that is inscribed in the law. The democrat fears that the administration will use other excuses to ban similar events in the future, further persecuting legal human rights. "The court is a reliable third-party to make a judgment," Kam said.

This view is shared by Au, as he told the Times that he would file an appeal to the court to challenge the administrative decision. He explained that, according to the law, the Court of Final Appeal, which is the body handling cases of this nature, is required to make a judgment within five days of the receipt of the appeal. Au disclosed that he is preparing the papers now.

The lawmaker said he and his colleague, lawmaker Ng Kuok Cheong, have faith in the judiciary to rule sensibly on the matter. "We trust the impartiality of the court," Au said. "But it's too early to discuss a judgment – we haven't even got our papers ready."

Last year, the vigil attracted about 100 to 150 participants. With the exception of a few years, the number of participants has been in decline lately. Au said that he was not surprised by this, since, "after all, three decades have passed since the incident."

"Considering the political environment of the city, I understand why residents have opted not to participate," he added, speaking to Hong Kong media HK01.

However, he stressed in the interview that the non-participation of residents should not be interpreted as a lack of support for democracy in Macau.

The annual vigil is organized by the Association for Democratic Development of Macau, which is headed by Au and his decades-old ally, Ng Kuok Cheong. The organization was formed principally in support of the development of democracy in Macau and on the mainland.

Thirty-one years ago, Au and Ng co-organized an assembly at the Ruins of St Paul's on May 20 in support of the student protest in Beijing. The city saw typhoon signal No. 9 hoisted that day, as well as 10,000 people participating in the event.

A series of protests were held after that in the same year, with the most populous one reaching a count of 100,000 participants.

The vigil has not always been held at its present Senado Square location. It was first held at the Ruins of St Paul's for several years, before moving to Senado Square. In some of the intervening years, the vigil was moved to the St Dominic's Church Square, so as to give way to a Children's Day celebration held on exactly the same evening. In 2014, the vigil was allowed once again to return to Senado Square.



ANTHONY LAM

**CHINESE DOCTOR
ADVISES TRUMP NOT
TO TAKE MEDICINES**

A Chinese doctor has said he does not recommend that people take medicines when they have not been prescribed them. Doctor Alvis Lo from Macau's Conde de São Januário Hospital Center made the comments during the government's daily press briefing on Covid-19 yesterday. He was asked by a journalist about the revelation U.S. President Donald Trump has been taking Hydroxychloroquine for a couple of weeks as a measure against Covid-19. "People that are not sick should not take any medicines," said Lo, adding that there are currently up to 10 drugs that are being tested and the results are being continuously analyzed to determine their effectiveness. The doctor also stressed that drug testing is a serious matter and requires a scientific approach by experts. "Just because one person took a drug and did well, this does not mean that all people taking it will get the same results."

**STEVE WYNN PREDICTS
COMING BOUNCE IN MACAU**

Casino developer Steve Wynn is predicting Macau will "bounce back very rapidly" from its economic downturn once the border restrictions from the mainland are lifted. Speaking to Fox Business this week, Wynn pointed to developments on nearby Hengqin as evidence of a coming bounce. "They opened it up a couple weeks ago," said Wynn, "and 20-odd thousand people came on the first day. That's the kind of energy that's been suppressed and will jump out [upon reopening]." The former CEO of casino operator Wynn Resorts said that U.S.-based casino firms with a presence in Macau will benefit from the bounce. In addition to Wynn Macau, the Macau arm of Wynn Resorts, rival Nevada operators MGM Resorts International and Las Vegas Sands also have a presence in the Macau SAR. Wynn Resorts in Las Vegas will accept reservations again starting from June 1. Like in Macau, the company's properties are to reopen with thermal cameras, temperature checks and face masks for guests.

**UM JOINS UNIVERSITY
GROUP STUDYING
PSYCHOSOCIAL
EFFECTS OF COVID-19**

The University of Macau has joined a collective of 15 other universities and research institutions around the world to conduct an international study of the psychosocial effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. The study aims to investigate the long-term mental health effects of the Covid-19 pandemic worldwide, in order to provide key policy guidance and to strengthen existing health services. The study will be conducted in 14 countries over the course of one year. The research team is formed by scholars at 16 universities and medical institutions around the world, including Yale University in the United States, the University of New South Wales in Australia, the University Hospital Zurich of the University of Zurich in Switzerland, and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in the United Kingdom.

CRIME

**COUPLE CHARGED WITH FRAUD,
LAUNDERING OF 3.3 MILLION PATACAS**

JULIE ZHU

The Judiciary Police (PJ) has charged a local couple with money laundering, the police department announced during a press conference yesterday morning.

The couple consists of the husband, surnamed Lei, 39, and the wife, surnamed Chan, 36. Both are Macau residents and described themselves as businesspeople.

They are suspected of having staged two fraud cases recorded in 2017.

Back in February 2017, the PJ received reports accusing one local wedding planning company of fraud. The case details show that the couple deceived a total of 37 people and made 5.1 million patacas from their customers. The pair reportedly tricked their clients into paying for hotel wedding banquet discounts from the concerned wedding planning company. The victims paid the 5.5 million patacas for the wedding reception arrangements in advance.

The second instance of fraud concerns a continuing education center run by the duo. The Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ) had reported this case to the PJ.

The DSEJ stated to the PJ that one continuing education center had forged documen-



ts to elude the DSEJ in procedures related to continuing education subsidy approval. In total, the DSEJ handed out 142,000 patacas to that center. In 2017, the PJ forwarded these cases to the prosecution authority for further investigation after receiving the reports.

Later, during the PJ's investigation, it was found that the couple had made some suspicious illicit transfers using their bank account. As a result, the PJ then investigated to find money laundering activities they suspected had been perpetrated by the couple.

Since 2015, the suspects have been sending money to

two Hong Kong bank accounts, one belonging to Lei and another to Lei's brother, involving a total of 3.3 million Hong Kong dollars. Based on this information, the PJ believes that the couple were illicitly laundering money that had been appropriated outside of Macau.

Besides the two cases, the woman independently faces another charge of document infringement.

In February 2017, the PJ discovered that Chan used forged documents to obtain a 2.23 million patacas bank loan intended for the purchase of an apartment. The bank records,

including transaction records provided by Chan to the bank, were falsified. The suspect has already paid all the loans concerned in the third case back to the bank.

On Tuesday, the PJ took the couple to the police station for inquiries. The couple failed to justify their Hong Kong bank transfer, and their statements were inconsistent.

Regarding Chan's counterfeit document accusation, she refused to cooperate with the PJ.

The PJ has charged the couple with money laundering. Chan alone faces the charges of fraud and document infringement.

CRIME

**Man accused of selling
elderly neighbor's e-voucher**

JULIE ZHU

The Public Security Police Force (PSP) has charged one man with the sale of another person's e-voucher. The victim is a senior citizen aged in his 70s.

During yesterday's joint police press conference, the PSP reported a fraud case relating to the government's e-voucher scheme. The suspect is a local man, surnamed Leong who is unemployed and in his 40s. The suspect and the victim are neighbors and they live in the north of Macau, near the Border Gate.

The senior citizen reported the case to the police authority on May 10. According to the PSP, on April 30, the suspect paid a visit to the victim's house on a false pretext, aiming to take possession of the victim's e-voucher.

According to the victim's statement, Leong told the victim he needed to purchase one product worth 500 patacas and wanted to borrow the victim's e-voucher to buy the product. At that time, Leong claimed that he didn't have enough cash to buy the product

by using the e-voucher and the cash together. Leong promised to return the card to the older man on May 2.

However, on May 1, Leong informed the victim that the borrowed e-voucher had been sold to a friend of Leong's. The victim consequently quarreled with Leong and demanded Leong to return the e-voucher by May 4.

On May 4, Leong failed to show up. On May 7, the victim attempted to contact Leong but failed. Afterwards, the victim could not trace Leong, having reported

the case to the PSP on May 10.

On May 10, the PSP found Leong in a local hospital. Leong admitted that he was still in possession of the old man's e-voucher but denied all other accusations.

Leong portrayed himself as being innocent of the accusation. He claimed to have paid 4,000 patacas to buy both the victim's e-vouchers, the current and the future one. Leong also claimed that he had sold both e-vouchers in addition to his own for 4,800 patacas in total.

The sale was made

near a casino, he said. The 4,800 patacas were all lost on gambling. Leong was reluctant to reveal the location and the time of the sale as well as to identify the buyer.

Believing that Leong had deceived the older man, the PSP referred Leong to the prosecution authority under the charge of fraud. The PSP also contacted the Economic Bureau (DSE), which pursued Leong's legal responsibility for the sale.

Earlier this month, the Judiciary Police (PJ) charged a 36-year-old local man for selling the government e-voucher. Government regulations ban e-voucher sales. Once such conduct is detected, the concerned individuals must return all proceeds to the government.



Commissioner Against Corruption, Chan Tsz King (left), submits the 2019 Annual Report of the CCAC to the Chief Executive, Ho Iat Seng

Anti-corruption report highlights document forgery in 2019 review

RENATO MARQUES

THE 2019 Annual Report of the Commission Against Corruption (CCAC), published yesterday in the government's Official Gazette, details instances last year where several public officials from different government departments and entities were caught in cases involving corruption, fraud and abuse of the power granted by their job positions.

The major highlight of the year was the case involving several public officials of the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) who alle-

gedly abused their powers for illicit gain and received bribes to perform dishonest acts in the process of vetting and approving applications for "major investment immigration" and "technical immigration," for which the trial has been recently postponed.

Although the incidents highlighted cases in which public officers and law enforcement officers have been found to fail in the course of their duties and responsibilities, the CCAC notes that in 2019 there was a decrease in the number and type of cases, adding that document forgery accounted for the largest proportion of all the investigated cases.

Police officers stood out among the rising cases of illegal acts committed by civil servants last year, as they were found to be involved in situations involving illegal work, fraud, document forgery, and unauthorized entry into casinos.

On the other hand, bribery in both its active and passive forms have generally declined in incidence.

On its competence in the area of ombudsmanship, last year the CCAC completed several inquiries, including the "Investigation of officials recommending the employment of relatives by the Office of the Prosecutor General", "Investigation of the land

plot at Colina da Ilha Verde", "Investigation of employment of translators/interpreters from the Chinese Mainland by the Supporting Office to the Forum for Economic and Trade Cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries", and "Investigation of the report against the Director of the Policy Research and Regional Development Bureau."

In its conclusion, the watchdog said, "although the matters being investigated and the analysis and conclusions differed from each other, they all revealed various kinds of failure of the public departments to fully comply with the law and [provi-

de] a satisfactory solution when dealing with the issues, which shall be made an example [for] all public departments."

Final statistics show that at the end of 2019, 584 complaints and reports had been received by the CCAC, from which 111 were cases filed by the Anti-Corruption Bureau and 473 cases pertained to the Ombudsman Bureau

MORE ATTENTION TO PRIVATE SECTOR PROMISED

CCAC Commissioner Chan Tsz King left a note of his intention to pursue, in a more extensive manner, cases related to the private sector in future.

"The CCAC will continue to keep a close eye on the risk of bribery in the private sector which possibly arises from [the number of complaints received involving the private sector], and will strive to enhance the integrity, management and healthy development of private companies and safeguard the integrity and fairness of society," the report reads, in relation to the acknowledgment of "a growing trend in ... complaints and reports about the management of gaming companies and large hotels."

The CCAC noted that the complaints received involve mostly cases of irregular acts in the processes of construction project tendering, procurement of goods and recruitment, and promotion of personnel.

GROUNDLESS COMPLAINTS WASTE RESOURCES

In 54.6% of the cases reported to the bureau, the reports lodged were made anonymously. Of those, a significant percentage – 66% of the cases – were "groundless, did not [agree] with the facts or could not be followed up for useful [investigation]."

This situation led the CCAC to note the fact as "undoubtedly a kind of abuse of public resources," expressing hope that citizens can exercise their rights to lodge complaints or reports while fulfilling their obligations "to jointly contribute to the building of a cleaner and fairer society."

Portuguese consulate expresses gratitude for local fundraising

ON behalf of the Portuguese government, the Portuguese Consul-General in Macau and Hong Kong has expressed its gratitude towards the local community for donating personal protective equipment to the country's hospitals.

Earlier this week, the organizer of the fundraiser Solidarity Commission sent 25,000 protective suits and

1.25 million masks, which will be handed out to Portuguese hospitals via the Portuguese embassy in Beijing.

The items were acquired using the funds that had been raised.

The materials were purchased for 4.7 million patacas, as cited in a statement issued by Solidarity Commission.

According to the group,

it has raised more than 4.46 million patacas, with BNU donating the remaining amount.

"On behalf of the Portuguese government, I would like to thank all the associations and individuals, gathered within a Solidarity Commission, for the commitment and dedication shown throughout the solidarity campaign in

favor of those who are at the forefront in combating Covid-19 in Portugal," said Paulo Cunha Alves, Consul General of the Portuguese Consulate, as posted on the consulate's Facebook page.

"For several weeks, funds and materials [have been] collected from the civil society of Macau, which, united around this noble cause, [responding] to the cam-

campaign in a generous and unconditional way, with donations that exceeded all the expectations of the organizers," Alves said.

Throughout March and April, the city's Portuguese community launched a fundraising campaign, aiming to help healthcare professionals in Portugal obtain personal protective equipment and other me-

dical equipment urgently needed to fight the Covid-19 outbreak in the European country.

The initiative has brought together almost 30 associations and institutions in support of Portugal's efforts to combat the outbreak.

As of yesterday, Portugal has reported 29,432 Covid-19 cases, with 122 deaths. LV

DEMOCRAT LAWMAKER CALLS ON PARLIAMENT TO ENTER DIGITAL AGE

ANTHONY LAM

THE website of the Legislative Assembly (AL) is poorly designed and not user-friendly, lawmaker Sulu Sou told a press conference yesterday, as he called for more work to be done on the digital transformation of Macau's legislature.

Earlier, the Legislative Assembly (AL) approved the e-Governance Bill, with the law due to come into force 180 days after its promulgation. The lawmaker expects that to take place in late September to early October this year.

According to the law, the president of the AL will initiate the implementation of e-governance in the legislature. Sou disclosed that he has submitted a number of preliminary comments on the matter.

Even with this recent law approved, the lawmaker thinks there is still a lot for the AL to do in order to cope with swiftly rising standards in global information technology.

"The progress of the AL's e-governance is lagging behind," the lawmaker pointed out. "It is inconvenient not only for the body's



daily operation, but also not conducive to the society's participation in the AL."

For example, he pointed out that most of the documents of the legislature at present – such as bills, opinions, and questions – are still in paper form. Indeed, documents accessible by the public on the body's website are mainly, if not all, scanned copies of a physical document.

Given this state of affairs, the copy-and-paste function and searching by keywords within a

document is impossible. In the lawmaker's opinion, "it is very inconvenient for journalists, members of the public and even lawmakers' staff."

On the other hand, when journalists work at the bench behind lawmakers, they are handed with printed government replies to lawmakers' interpellations.

The lawmaker has asked the legislature for an explanation, which came with the answer that the use of paper form is due to the fact all documents must be

signed, which further highlights that despite the law on electronic documents and electronic signatures having been in effect for 15 years, the AL is still not accepting e-signature as valid proof of authorization.

After the policy address last month, Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng asked how many lawmakers were using e-signature at his first "question and answer session" as the government's head. Only a handful of lawmakers replied in the affirmative. Ho said they

should have worked harder to promote the service.

Meanwhile, Sou disclosed that he has written to the president of the AL, Kou Hoi In, to suggest that he consult all legislators before giving an order on e-governance and appoint a committee to prepare an opinion for the order.

All in all, the lawmaker hopes the legislature can invest more in beautifying its website, besides making it more user-friendly. There should be a search function for users to look for particular elements. The lawmaker used the websites of the Hong Kong Legislative Council and the Portuguese Parliament as examples to illustrate his point.

Furthermore, he referred to the local courts' and the Printing Bureau's websites to illustrate the advantages of electronic document formats which allow basic copy-and-paste and search functions.

Although the AL has already established an internal e-platform for lawmakers to submit questions to the government, Sou thinks the platform should be expanded so that it can serve members of the public as well.

Finally, the lawmaker urges the AL to give way to email and e-signature to facilitate smarter governance. After all, "we have been talking about the concept of a smart city for several years now," the lawmaker said.



MGTO to launch free tours in overnight visitor push

DANIEL BEITLER

THE Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) will provide free half-day tours for overnight visitors as part of an ambitious plan to revive the local tourism sector.

The measure, which is part of a three-stage plan to stimulate the tourism sector once border con-

trol measures are lifted on the mainland, was announced earlier this week at the Tourism Development Committee's first plenary meeting of the year.

Visitor arrivals registered a near-total collapse in the first four months of 2020. In March, the latest month for which full data is available, visitor

arrivals were down 93.7% in year-on-year terms, even as there was 35.8% growth from a month earlier.

In response to this unprecedented fall in tourism, the MGTO is working with local hotels, travel agencies, airlines and ferry operators to devise a tourism recovery plan.

In the first stage of the plan, the MGTO will activate a scheme to support overseas promotions carried out by local entities. Then, in the second stage, the MGTO will unveil its own promotional measures, including the provision of free half-day tours for overnight visitors.

In the third stage of the plan, the MGTO will formulate a recovery scheme in accordance with the actual situation in international markets.

Although the MGTO did not disclose the details of this recovery scheme, a government-issued statement suggested it would include "providing preferential measures for transportation networks such as airline, ferry and border-crossing bus [services]."

The MGTO's plan is dependent on the resumption of normal border activity with Macau's largest tourism source market, mainland China. At present, neighboring Guangdong province is enforcing a mandatory 14-day quarantine for all arrivals – even on its own residents.

Members of the Tourism Development Committee used this week's meeting to express concern about the flow of visitors to Macau should the current pandemic situation extend into next year.

Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Ao Ieong U presided over the meeting and heard members of the Committee express their opinions on ways to restart local tourism. According to the government, the Secretary thanked the Committee members for their input and encouraged local industry operators to be prepared to welcome visitors again in the future.

The government statement noted that although the local tourism board will be brought under the purview of the Secretariat for Economy and Finance, "tourism is still closely linked with the fields of culture and sports." Accordingly, the government will continue to attract more visitors through the provision of cultural tours and "mega sports events."

VISITOR SPENDING FALLS 70% IN FIRST QUARTER

VISITOR spending plummeted in the first quarter of 2020 in proportion to the decline in the number of arrivals, new data from the Statistics and Census Service shows.

Excluding gaming spending, total visitor spending was down 70.4% from a year earlier at 5.01 billion patacas. The decline was equally split between overnight visitors (3.78 billion patacas) and same-day visitors (1.23 billion patacas), which fell by 70.8% and 69.3% respectively.

The significant decline in visitor spending reflects the 68.9% fall in arrivals during the first quarter. January accounted for the majority of Macau's 3.22 million first quarter visitor arrivals, before the effect of the Covid-19 pandemic was felt outside of mainland China.

In per-capita terms, visitor spending slipped just 4.8% year-on-year to 1,555 patacas in the first quarter. Per-capita spending of overnight visitors fell by 9% year-on-year to 2,484 patacas, while that of same-day visitors rose by 1.6% to 723 patacas. **DB**

KEN MORITSUGU,
BEIJING

Virus looms over China's national legislative session

WHEN China convenes its National People's Congress tomorrow, will the 3,000 delegates stand shoulder to shoulder? Will they wear masks?

This year's version of China's biggest political meeting of the year will be unlike any other. Delayed from March because of the then-spiraling coronavirus outbreak, the decision to go ahead with the gathering signals a partial return to normalcy in the country where the pandemic first broke out. "Partial" being the operative word: The congress will be far from normal.

For the ruling Communist Party and leader Xi Jinping, the holding of the congress, even in curtailed form, offers an opportunity to showcase China's success in curbing the spread of the coronavirus, while many other countries are still wrestling with it. But the government is taking extensive precautions to prevent any infections at the congress, a health risk and potential public relations nightmare.

Shi Shusi, a Beijing-based social commentator, said that both the holding of the congress and the reopening of schools are seen as indicators of whether the epidemic in China has ended. A day ahead of the congress, an advisory body held in conjunction with it convenes today. Together the annual meetings are widely referred to in China as the two sessions.

"It concerns the safety of children and government officials, which is very important in China," Shi said. "The opening of the two sessions is to tell the world that the epidemic situation is under control."

Classes resumed in Beijing for some grades this month, notably high school seniors who must prepare for college entrance exams, while others will follow in June. Universities remain closed until at least September.

Traffic congestion has returned to the city, another sign that life is edging back toward normal in the capital. Food courts are crowded with lunchtime office workers, lining up for Chinese noodles and Korean rice bowl meals, though signs urge diners



not to linger and socialize. Zhou Yu, who works at a Beijing bank, said he feels assured because the opening of the two sessions means the epidemic is under control. He and clients wear masks when they meet.

"We resumed work in March, and almost all of us are back to work now," he said. "Because we all pay attention to the precautions and disinfect working areas every day, there's nothing to worry about."

As night falls, dance groups have resumed their get-togethers in public spaces, many following new official guidance that masks are no longer needed outdoors. Most onlookers, though, still wear them. Movie theaters remain closed, and major tourist sites require advance registration to limit the number of daily visitors.

The congress, normally a colorful affair with plenty of ceremony, will be shorter than usual, perhaps one week instead of the usual two. Some officials will speak remotely by video to breakout sessions of delegates. Participants are being tested and isolated ahead of the meetings, and news conferences will be held by video.

Earlier speculation that

some of the 3,000 delegates, who come from around the country, might attend by video link has faded, with Chinese media reports now focused on them getting coronavirus tests before departing for Beijing.

The fallout from the coronavirus outbreak, economic and otherwise, is likely to dominate the agenda. The sharp deterioration of U.S.-China relations, fueled by a blame game over a pandemic that has killed more than 323,000 people globally, will also hang over the meeting.

Xi's public standing has risen at home for both his handling of the outbreak and his standing up to foreign accusations that the government reacted too slowly and covered up the seriousness of the outbreak initially, said Cheng Li, a China politics expert at the Brookings Institute in Washington, D.C.

Overseas, opinions of Xi are less rosy, at least in some quarters. While some countries have embraced deliveries of virus-related equipment from China, the U.S., Australia and some European nations have questioned the government's openness and bristled at combative retorts by some of its diplomats.

Xi's handling of the pandemic has opened the door to internal debate about China's direction under his leadership "and

confirmed the worst opinion of the character of his leadership among many in the international community," said Elizabeth

Economy, director for Asia studies at the New York-based Council on Foreign Relations.

The growing split with the U.S., as the Trump administration takes a more confrontational approach to a rising China on trade, technology and other issues, adds to the challenge of reviving economic growth and jobs, both of which were hit hard by the epidemic.

The congress, largely a rubber-stamp body that gives formal approval to earlier leadership decisions, is the venue for the Communist Party to review the past year and announce its economic growth target for the current year. The growth target is expected to be lower than last year's 6.0 to 6.5%, and some analysts speculate that the party may not even announce one given the current economic uncertainty.

"The government should be frank to tell the public these risks and difficulties in a responsible way," said Peng Xizhe, a sociology professor at Heilongjiang University in northeastern China. "Difficulties such as unemployment should get the attention of all of society." AP

AD



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Macao Institute for Tourism Studies

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Contact number: 2856-1252

For course information, please browse:
<http://www.iftm.edu.mo/EN/HeritageandTourism/Home/Index/257>



IFTM – QUALITY GENERATED IN MACAO, WORLDWIDE CERTIFIED

AP PHOTO



Senior students wait for a class to begin with plastic shields placed on their desks at Jeonmin High School in Daejeon, South Korea

'New normal' anything but as countries continue to reopen

CHRIS BLAKE &
MICHELLE R. SMITH,
BANGKOK

HUNDREDS of thousands of high school seniors in South Korea had their temperature checked and rubbed their hands with sanitizer as they returned to school yesterday, many for the first time since late last year after their new term was repeatedly pushed back by the coronavirus pandemic.

Students and teachers were required to wear masks and some schools installed plastic partitions around desks. In a reminder that the so-called "new normal" was anything but, more than 60 schools near Seoul quickly sent their students home as a precaution after two students who hadn't even attended class were found infected.

A phased reopening of South Korean schools is expected to be complete by June 8, and comes as the number of new infections in the country has fallen to around 30 per day, down from hundreds each day in early March.

The resumption of on-routine aspects of daily life that were upended by the pandemic has picked up speed in recent weeks, as governments and communities try to strike a balance between keeping infections from flaring anew and allowing economies to function.

What a return to normal looks like varies widely, from migrant workers in India finally able to catch trains back to their home villages to wealthy shoppers in Maseratis and Rolls-Royces returning to the boutiques of America's iconic Rodeo Drive in Beverly Hills.

As the debate about how fast to reopen rages in the U.S., public health officials in some states there have been accused of bungling coronavirus infection statistics or even using a little sleight of hand to deliberately make things look better than they are.

The risk is that politicians, business owners and ordinary Americans who are making decisions about lockdowns and other day-to-day matters could be left with the impression that the virus is under more control than it actually is.

In Virginia, Texas and Vermont, for example, officials said they have been combining the results of viral tests, which show an active infection, with antibody tests, which show a past infection. Public health experts say that can make for impressive-looking testing totals but does not give a true picture of how the virus is spreading.

In Florida, the data scientist who developed the state's coronavirus dashboard, Rebekah Jones, said this week that she was fired for refusing to manipulate data "to drum

up support for the plan to reopen."

In Georgia, one of the earliest states to ease up on lockdowns and assure the public it was safe to go out again, the Department of Public Health published a graph around May 11 that showed new COVID-19 cases declining over time in the most severely affected counties. The daily entries, however, were not arranged in chronological order but in descending order.

For example, the May 7 totals came right before April 26, which was followed by May 3. A quick look at the graph made it appear as if the decline was smoother than it really was. The graph was taken down within about a day.

Georgia state Rep. Jasmine Clark, a Democrat with a doctorate in microbiology, said the graph was a "prime example of malfeasance."

"Sadly it feels like there's been an attempt to make the data fit the narrative, and that's not how data works," she said.

Republican Gov. Brian Kemp's office denied there was any attempt to deceive the public.

Guidelines from the Trump administration say that before states begin reopening, they should see a 14-day downward trend in infections. However, some states have reopened when infections were still climbing or had plateaued. States have also been instructed to expand testing

and contact tracing.

Jennifer Nuzzo, a senior scholar at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security, said a lot of these cases are not necessarily the result of any attempt to fool the public. For example, she said, states may not have updated information systems that allow them to tell the difference between an antibody test and a viral test.

Still, if states are mixing a lot of testing numbers together, "you're not going to be able to make good decisions about reopening and about what level of disease you have in the community," Nuzzo said.

More than 4.9 million people worldwide have been confirmed infected by the virus, and more than 320,000 deaths have been recorded, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University that experts believe is too low.

Russia and Brazil are now behind only the United States in the number of reported infections, and cases are also spiking in such places as India, South Africa and Mexico.

New hot spots emerged yesterday [Macau time] in Russia, and the country recorded nearly 9,300 new infections in 24 hours, bringing the total to almost 300,000, about half of them in Moscow. Authorities say over 2,800 people with COVID-19 have died in Russia, a figure some say is surely higher. **AP**

this day in history



1991 BOMB KILLS INDIA'S FORMER LEADER RAJIV GANDHI

Rajiv Gandhi, the 46-year-old former Indian prime minister, has been assassinated.

He was campaigning for the Congress Party on the second day of voting in the world's largest democratic election when a powerful bomb, hidden in a basket of flowers, exploded killing him instantly.

At least 14 other people were also killed in the attack in the town of Sriperumbudur, about 30 miles from Madras, the capital of the southern state of Tamil Nadu.

No-one has admitted carrying out the murder but it is being blamed on Mr Gandhi's arch enemies, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), a violent guerrilla group fighting for a separate homeland for Tamils on the island of Sri Lanka.

Rajiv Gandhi's death has shocked the world and marks the end of the Nehru dynasty that had led India for all but five years since independence from Britain.

After his brother Sanjay was killed in an air crash in 1980, he gave up his job as an airline pilot and was elected to Sanjay's parliamentary seat.

He became prime minister after his mother, Indira Gandhi, was assassinated by her own Sikh bodyguards in 1984.

Often seen as a reluctant leader, he and his Congress Party won a record majority later that year.

He encouraged foreign investment, a freer economy and rejuvenated his own party, ridding it of his mother's unelected cronies.

After he lost the election in 1989, Rajiv Gandhi resigned.

This time, the Congress Party was expected to win the largest number of parliamentary seats - but not overall control - against the Hindu BJP Party and the Janata Dal, now split into two parties.

The campaign has been marred by sectarian violence between Hindus and Muslims in what has proved to be the most violent election in Indian history. Two hundred people have already been killed.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

It later emerged that a female Tamil Tiger (LTTE) suicide bomber had assassinated Rajiv Gandhi.

In 1987 Mr Gandhi, then prime minister, had sent Indian peacekeeping forces to Sri Lanka in a disastrous attempt to impose peace in the country. The move proved unpopular both at home and abroad and his troops pulled out in 1990.

A year after Mr Gandhi's death, the Tamil Tigers were outlawed in India.

PV Narasimha Rao, succeeded Gandhi as Congress leader and became India's prime minister later that year. After a number of bribery scandals, the party was heavily defeated in the 1996 elections. But its popularity was revived in 1998 by Mr Gandhi's Italian-born widow Sonia who took over as leader and returned the party to power in the 2004 elections.

She refused to become prime minister herself, however, and the job went to former finance minister Manmohan Singh.

YOUR STARS

ARIES
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
Everyone around you could be having a hissy fit over something that isn't really a big deal today, which means that you'll be the only person who is calm and collected enough to see the real problem.

TAURUS
Apr. 20-May. 20
While you may not be able to see the whole picture right now, you're going to get all the information you need today to keep feeling positive about the future.

GEMINI
May. 21-Jun. 21
Look down at your feet. Are you wearing two different socks? Don't be surprised if you are, because there's a misalignment in the energies around you today.

CANCER
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
You should have strong, good energy to help you get through the day. Tap in to it whenever you need to. If you have some ambitious projects lined up, today is your lucky day.

LEO
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
Skip the staid business side of things today and instead focus on the creative aspects of your life. Listen to music, cook an ambitious meal, and dance around your home.

VIRGO
Aug. 23-Sep. 22
In any situation where you're asked to judge something or give your opinion about something someone else has created, be gentle and generous with your praise. Being critical of others today is not wise.

LIBRA
Sep. 23-Oct. 22
Do you have the misconception that bigger is better? This could be a big mistake right now. Your energy is much better suited for smaller places, quieter sounds, and lower expectations.

SCORPIO
Oct. 23-Nov. 21
Honesty is always the best tactic. If you need to extricate yourself from an unhealthy or unproductive relationship, just tell it like it is. Don't waste anyone's time.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
What is your plan? If the change happens within a friendship, you could see your friend being a lot more conscientious about your time and priorities.

CAPRICORN
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
Even if you can only get outside for half an hour, the fresh air and light exercise will serve you well. Try to go in the middle of the day, when your energy will likely be in need of a boost.

AQUARIUS
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
Be cautious with your money right now, and don't take anything for granted. You could be misled by your bank statement and think you have more than you do.

PISCES
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
There's nothing quite as powerful as confident energy, and today you could be bursting at the seams with it. The insights you have right now can put you on a solid foundation in a challenging discussion.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

EASY					EASY+					
7		3	2		8	9	2			
	4		7	9				9		
3	9			7	6				2	5
6	7		4	9		6	4		2	
			2	5	5	8			1	7
		8	7	5	3	2		1	8	
9	6				3	8	7	2		
			6	7	1	3		7		
			3	2	9			1	6	4

MEDIUM					HARD					
6				4	3	2			7	
	5	9					6	1		
8			4		7					
	3			1	5	4			5	
		5	7		6			3	7	
		2	4		9					
1			2		3	6	5			4
3				9	5			8		3
			8		1	1		2		

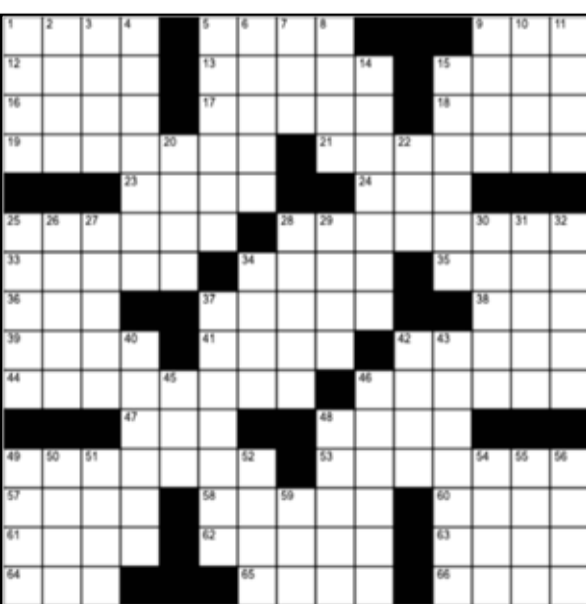
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	16	25	thundershower
Harbin	10	19	cloudy
Tianjin	19	24	thundershower
Urumqi	15	22	drizzle
Xi'an	17	32	cloudy
Lhasa	9	17	moderate rain
Chengdu	20	26	drizzle
Chongqing	24	29	overcast
Kunming	17	31	cloudy
Nanjing	20	30	clear
Shanghai	21	28	overcast
Wuhan	21	30	clear
Hangzhou	21	30	overcast
Taipei	23	26	heavy rain
Guangzhou	24	28	rainstorm
Hong Kong	25	29	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	3	11	drizzle
Frankfurt	12	23	clear
Paris	16	26	clear
London	14	25	drizzle
New York	9	18	clear

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Sign of healing; 5- Old Italian money; 9- Increase, with "up"; 12- Additional; 13- Kitchen come-on; 15- Brief letter, paper money; 16- Toward the mouth; 17- Walked back and forth; 18- I could ___ horse!; 19- Long conversation; 21- Musical mark; 23- "Hard ___!" (sailor's yell); 24- Domesticated animal; 25- Turning point; 28- Was of consequence; 33- Main artery; 34- Jester; 35- Speed contest; 36- May ___ excused?; 37- High public esteem; 38- Drunkard; 39- Zilch; 41- Puts away; 42- Pomme or manzana; 44- Infinite time; 46- Killer; 47- Hosp. readout; 48- Get as a result; 49- Italian dumplings; 53- Typical; 57- Em, e.g.; 58- Govt. security; 60- Bakery worker; 61- School orgs.; 62- Flight segment; 63- Human leg joint; 64- Nine-digit ID; 65- Oklahoma Native; 66- Ethereal; Prefix;

DOWN: 1- Kind of alert; 2- Mrs. Dithers, in "Blondie"; 3- Graceful horse; 4- Confined to the berth; 5- Passes by degrees; 6- Steamed; 7- Fabled bird; 8- "So be it"; 9- Din; 10- Bluesy James; 11- Meat dish; 14- Power plug transformer; 15- Asexual; 20- Charles Lamb's nom de plume; 22- Hanoi holiday; 25- Queeg's command; 26- Android; 27- Peace goddess; 28- Like some mouthwashes; 29- Old Testament book; 30- Irritable; 31- French school; 32- Inhibit; 34- Zoo barrier; 37- Elevations; 40- Builds; 42- Wings; 43- Red powdery condiment; 45- Japanese computer giant; 46- Harsh; 48- Rate; 49- Openings; 50- Bonkers; 51- ___ even keel; 52- Keen about; 54- Skin disorder; 55- Will of "The Waltons"; 56- ___ saw Elba; 59- Bran source;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
- Fire department 28 572 222
- PJ (Open line) 993
- PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
- PSP 28 573 333
- Customs 28 559 944
- S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
- Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
- Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
- IAM 28 387 333
- Tourism 28 333 000
- Airport 59 888 88
- Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
- Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
- Telephone - Report 1000
- Electricity - Report 28 339 922
- Macau Daily Times 28 716 081



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Manhattan Apartment, Taipa
\$20,800/mth 1,626 ft² 3 1/2 2 1/2

FOR SALE

[Macau] Apartment Historical Centre 2 1/2 1 1/2
840 ft² **\$4,580,000** (ref: 20016003)

[Taipa] Wa Bao 2 1/2 2 1/2
1,071 ft² **\$7,995,000** (ref: 18115568)

[Coloane] Hellene Gardens 1 1/2 3 1/2 2 1/2
1,663 ft² **\$8,200,000** (ref: 19025577)

[Macau] Seaview Garden 3 1/2 2 1/2
1,420 ft² **\$10,900,000** (ref: 20016004)

FOR RENT

[Macau] Lakeview Mansion Car Park 1 1/2
\$3,800/mth (ref: 20041001)

[Coloane] Grand Coloane Resort 1 1/2 1 1/2
710 ft² **\$10,000/mth** (ref: 20021002)

[Macau] Vai Fung Triplex, Macau 2 1/2 2 1/2
1,065 ft² **\$14,000/mth** (ref: 19121001)

[Taipa] Buckingham 2 1/2 1 1/2
1,100 ft² **\$15,900/mth** (ref: 20031002)

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BLOOMBERG

ANALYSIS

CRISIS REMINDS US THAT NOTHING BEATS DOLLARS

SHAWN DONNAN

THERE is something about America that tends to shed fear. Its citizens occasionally tremble, but America as a whole exploits fear. It may do anger or retribution, or internal divisions built on personal fears. It doesn't suffer from collective angst—or never for long. America is too big and brash. It does strength. It does hope and revival.

That's a cliché, of course. But it's why—when the global economy started its pandemic-driven collapse—the world's investors flocked into dollars. America is that confident neighbor with the basketball court and pool out back as well as the high fence and well-stocked wine cellar/bunker. In a crisis, you want to know that neighbor. It's safe at his place. Even if you don't particularly like him.

Every economic crisis brings a new belief that foundational change is upon us. We haven't been through an economic contraction quite like this one since the 1930s. It's fair to argue that this might change everything

from our personal behavior to what we demand of governments and how we conduct commerce.

Some things, though, are only reinforced in a crisis. And that's where the dollar's primacy on the world stage stands now, whatever discomfort over imbalances may have preceded this or however intellectually compelling the contrarian argument may have been before Covid-19.

The first reason: The response to the crisis has reinforced the role of the dollar as the world's reserve currency of choice and of the Federal Reserve as the globe's most powerful central bank. If the world has been clamoring for anything—other than a cure—it's been dollars. And the Fed has been handing out plenty, reinforcing its standing as the de facto guardian of both its own currency and the functioning of global financial markets.

The second reason: the persistent absence of an alternative. For years pundits have predicted the rise of a challenger to dollar supremacy. Those forecasts came with the launch of the euro in 1999 and with the global financial

crisis a decade later. They accompanied the 2016 inclusion of China's renminbi in the basket that makes up the International Monetary Fund's own de facto currency, its special drawing rights. Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies have even laid a claim. None, though, has ever truly taken off. The dollar has, at the very least, maintained its place.

It's evident in what central banks around the world have chosen to hold as reserves. More than \$6.7 trillion, or 60%, of nations' collective \$11 trillion in sovereign foreign exchange reserves were parked in dollars at the end of last year, according to data from the IMF. China's RMB, by contrast, accounted for \$217.7 billion, or just under 2%.

Is some bigger trend afoot that could change that? A rewiring of globalization that might reduce demand for dollars, perhaps? The argument is that the crisis has triggered an existential unease about sprawling supply chains, particularly when it comes to medical supplies, and that now a great manufacturing homecoming is likely. But that discom-

fort has been focused primarily on authoritarian China's growing place in the global economy. Even if U.S. or European companies were willing to give up on the enormous Chinese domestic market, it's hard to see how a move toward more diversified supply chains undermines the dollar's standing, even if it leads to less commerce. It certainly wouldn't strengthen the case for the renminbi.

The argument also represents a common misdiagnosis of a longer-term trend that may indeed accelerate with the current crisis, but in far subtler ways than even the economic nationalist now in the White House might want.

Peak globalization has been falsely diagnosed many times over the past decade. A move toward shortening global supply chains has been under way since at least 2011, when the tsunami in Japan and floods in Thailand put a new premium on managing risks to production and diversifying suppliers. The "China + 1" sourcing strategy adopted by many non-Chinese companies accelerated during the recent

trade wars. Those trends—and even a rebirth of American protectionism—have proven how enduring globalization has become. Factories left China, but they moved to such places as Vietnam or Mexico rather than "reshoring" to America's industrial heartland.

Even if all medical products such as respirators and medicines were made in the U.S. it would represent a small share of world commerce. Global trade in medical products was worth roughly \$2 trillion in 2019, about 5% of the total, according to the World Trade Organization. America's imports represented less than \$200 billion of that. By comparison, when the Bank for International Settlements last measured the daily turnover in global foreign exchange markets last April, it put it at more than \$6.6 trillion in transactions, \$5.8 trillion of which involved the U.S. dollar.

There's a reason that America doesn't do fear, at least not when it comes to the dollar. Even in a crisis, its place is just too big for anybody to mess with. **BLOOMBERG**

AD



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ONE GOOD THING

Donation brings a bit of Mardi Gras to hospital workers

STACEY PLAISANCE,
NEW ORLEANS

EMILY Bauman is a believer in the power of music. So when she got her stimulus check, she put that power to work -- for New Orleans's hospital workers and the city's out-of-work musicians.

Bauman and a friend funded the stimulus serenade, a concert for front-line health care workers in one of the nation's coronavirus hot spots, and a paying gig for musicians who badly need one.

Health care workers in masks and hair coverings hoisted umbrellas and waved handkerchiefs, danced and clapped as nine members of the New Orleans Jazz Orchestra performed outside New Orleans East Hospital. They played "Do Whatcha Wanna" and "Hot Sausage Rag" and Paul Barbarin's "Second Line."

In a city known for music and good times, last Friday's serenade was a balm for difficult ones.

"This was fantastic therapy for us and our staff," said Takeisha Charles Davis, a doctor at the



Healthcare workers at New Orleans East Hospital wave handkerchiefs and dance to a jazz serenade, as a tribute for their care for COVID-19 patients, by the New Orleans Jazz Orchestra

hospital and among those dancing there on Friday. "The last 8½ weeks have been tremendously stressful."

Their benefactor is not even a local resident. A professor, classical pianist and jazz enthusiast, Bauman lives in New York City. (An anonymous friend also donated a

stimulus check to the project.)

At first, the plan was to present the serenade in New York. When Bauman was told it wasn't practical to do it there, she was elated to hear it would be workable in New Orleans.

Bauman, 49, said she fell hard for NOLA when she lived there

temporarily as part of the Teach for America program in the 1990s.

"Music, I think, is really important as a way for us to communicate with each other in these isolating times," she said.

Her hope: to inspire copycats who will fund stimulus serenades across the country and in

New Orleans.

Adonis Rose, artistic director for the jazz orchestra and one of the musicians performing at the serenade, said the 20 of the group's members who typically perform all over town are now unemployed due to the pandemic and subsequent business closures.

Rose said the gift was a boost to musicians who have been unemployed and in quarantine for more than two months.

"This was great for the musicians working and also to show support for the health care workers and the patients affected by the virus," Rose said. "Being able to bring them together, to be able to do it for such a great cause, was amazing."

There's enough money left over for a second concert, planned for later this month at the Lambeth House, the retirement and assisted living facility where a dozen died early on in the pandemic.

Bauman, more than 1,400 miles away, watched the hospital concert on the jazz orchestra's website.

"I loved it and found it very emotional but also very joyful, which I didn't expect," she said. "The dancing was so inspiring and made me feel watching it like I was there and part of it. I actually felt like the serenade was sending courage and soul to me, too, and I was one of the ones organizing it!" AP

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TWISTED LANDSCAPES
EXHIBITION BY 作品展 EXPOSIÇÃO DE
張正民
ZHANG ZHENGMIN

Duration of Exhibition
April 23rd until May 31st 2020

Opening Hours
Monday, from 03:00PM to 08:00PM
Tuesday to Sunday, from 12:00PM to 08:00PM

Exhibition Venue
Albergue SCM – A2 Gallery

Free Admission

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Escola de Artes e Ofícios
School of Arts and Crafts

JOALHARIA/JEWELLERY

Vitrofundição
Glass Fusion

workshop

≥ 18 anos/years old
monitora/monitor:
Cristina Vinhas

Sextas
Fridays
18h30 - 21h30

total: 09 horas/hours
03 sessões/sessions

início/starts: 05/06/2020
fim/finishes: 19/06/2020

data/dates: 05, 12, 19/06/2020
propina/fee: MOP 360 *

língua/language:
Português e Inglês/Portuguese and English **

patrocínio/sponsor: **Fundação Macau**

local/venue:
Avenida do Dr. Francisco Vieira Machado n° 431 - 487 Edif. Industrial Nam Fung 8° andar B, sala 1, Macau

número máximo de participantes/maximum number of participants:
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OPINION

World Views

Cass R. Sunstein, Bloomberg

HOW TO MAKE
CORONAVIRUS RESTRICTIONS
EASIER TO SWALLOW

To address the coronavirus pandemic, it's essential to influence human behavior; to promote social distancing, to get people to wear masks, to encourage people to stay home. Many nations have imposed mandates as well. But to enforce the mandates and to promote safer choices as the mandates wind down, people have to be nudged.

To organize current and coming efforts, a simple framework can be captured in an acronym: FEAST. The idea begins with the EAST framework from the Behavioural Insights Team in the U.K., which deserves to be better known.

EAST refers to four ideas: easy, attractive, social and timely.

If you want people to do something, make it easy for them. They have to know what to do and how to do it, and it should not be too burdensome, painful or costly. Automatic enrollment — for example, in savings plans or green energy — significantly increases participation rates, because it is so easy.

Whenever the goal is to change behavior, the best question is easy to overlook: Why aren't people doing it already? After getting the answer, public officials, employers, schools and others can take steps to remove the barrier.

It matters whether an option or message is attractive. A simple and vivid communication has more impact than a dull and complicated one. With respect to Covid-19, officials in Ireland have made excellent use of this insight with striking informational signs. The same is true of New Zealand.

People tend to be affected by what other people do; hence the S for social in EAST. If people learn that they are conserving less energy than other people, they start to conserve more energy. Publicizing a current norm or an emerging norm can greatly alter behavior. New Zealand's "Unite Against Covid-19" message is brilliant on that count.

Timing is everything. Often it's best to provide people with information (including warnings) right before they make a decision, not the night before or when their minds are focused elsewhere. As nations relax stay-at-home orders and business shutdowns, health-related messages should be arranged so that people see them immediately before they make health-related choices.

For policy makers all over the world, EAST has proven useful. But it's missing something essential: Fun. Hence my modest, evidence-based amendment, adding the F for FEAST.

How do you encourage people to eat more vegetables? A Stanford University study tried two different methods. The first involved labels that emphasized health benefits. The second used labels that emphasized enjoyment and taste.

Both worked, but enjoyment proved to be the more powerful motivator. The health-focused labels increased vegetable consumption by 14 percent, which is pretty good. The enjoyment-focused labels increased vegetable consumption by 29 percent, which is terrific.

Savvy marketers are keenly aware of the importance of enjoyment and fun.

A pandemic isn't fun. But leaders can produce a sense of optimism, unity, hope and more than a few smiles instead of despair, anger, division and fear. Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern of New Zealand even managed to have some fun with the lockdown, describing the Tooth Fairy and the Easter Bunny as "essential workers," legally authorized to carry on their work.

In general, New Zealand has succeeded in meeting the pandemic not only with firmness, calm and determination but also with wit, a call to unity (emphasizing that the nation is "a team of 5 million") and a consistent sense of good cheer. Its mantra has been, "Be kind."

For Covid-19, the most important parts of the FEAST framework are the E for easy and the S for social. Complexity and confusion are mortal enemies of public health; good norms are its best friends.

But here's a plea to leaders at all levels, even in dark times: Do not neglect the F. Human beings need it.

[Abridged]

Taiwan's president said the coronavirus pandemic has changed the global political and economic order, accelerated and expanded the reorganization of global supply chains, restructured the global economy, and changed the way we live and shop.

In an address yesterday on her inauguration to a second term, Tsai said such changes present both challenges and opportunities, particularly for Taiwan, which has received praise for its handling of the outbreak even while being excluded from the World Health Organization at the insistence of China.

Beijing claims the self-governing democratic island as its own territory.

With virus threats still looming, "only those who can end the pandemic within their borders, lay out a strategy for their country's survival and development, and take advantage of opportunities in the complex world of tomorrow, will be able to set themselves apart on the international stage," Tsai said.

As an aging society, Taiwan needs to bolster disease prevention and treatment capabilities and link industries to make more breakthroughs in vaccine and new drug development, she said.

QUEST FOR 'SUPER-DUPER
MISSILE' PITS US
AGAINST KEY RIVALS



THEY fly at speeds of a mile a second or faster and maneuver in ways that make them extra difficult to detect and destroy in flight.

President Donald Trump calls them a "super-duper missile," though they're better known as hypersonic weapons. And they are at the heart of Trump administration worries about China and Russia.

For decades the United States has searched for ways to get ultra-fast flight right. But it has done so in fits and starts. Now, with China and Russia arguably ahead in this chase, the Trump administration is pouring billions of dollars a year into hypersonic offense and defense.

The Pentagon makes no bones about their purpose.

"Our ultimate goal is, simply, we want to dominate future battlefields," Mark Lewis, the Pentagon's director of defense research and engineering for modernization, told reporters in March.

Critics argue that hypersonic weapons would add little to the United States' ability to deter war. Some think they could ignite a new, destabilizing arms race.

A look at hypersonic weapons:

Two things make these weapons special: speed

and maneuverability. Speed brings surprise, and maneuverability creates elusiveness. Together, those qualities could mean trouble for missile defenses.

By generally agreed definition, a hypersonic weapon is one that flies at speeds in excess of Mach 5, or five times the speed of sound. Most American missiles, such as those launched from aircraft to hit other aircraft or ground targets, travel between Mach 1 and Mach 5.

"Our ultimate goal is, simply, we want to dominate future battlefields."

MARK LEWIS
THE PENTAGON

Trump occasionally mentions his interest in hypersonic weapons, sometimes without using the term. In February he told governors visiting the White House: "We have the super-fast missiles — tremendous number of the super-fast. We call them 'super-fast,' where they're four, five, six and even seven times faster than an ordinary missile. We need that because, again, Russia has some."

And last Friday, Trump told reporters, "We have no choice, we have to do it, with the adversaries we have out there," mentio-

ning China and Russia. He added, "I call it the super-duper missile." He said he "heard" it travels 17 times faster than any other U.S. missile. "It just got the go-ahead," he added, although the Pentagon would not comment on that.

The Pentagon is pursuing two main types of hypersonic weapons. One, called a hypersonic glide vehicle, is launched from a rocket. It then glides to a target, maneuvering at high speed to evade interception. The other is sometimes referred to as a hypersonic cruise missile. Capable of being launched from a fighter jet or bomber, it would be powered by a supersonic combustion ramjet, or scramjet, enabling the missile to fly and maneuver at lower altitudes.

On March 19, the Pentagon flight-tested a hypersonic glide vehicle at its Pacific Missile Range Facility in Kauai, Hawaii. It deemed the test a success and "a major milestone towards the department's goal of fielding hypersonic warfighting capabilities in the early- to mid-2020s."

Unlike Russia, the United States says it is not developing hypersonic weapons for use with a nuclear warhead. As a result, a U.S. hypersonic weapon will need to be more accurate, posing additional technical challenges. AP



Philippine police raided a small clandestine hospital and a drugstore catering to Chinese citizens suspected of being infected with the coronavirus and arrested two Chinese administrators. Police said they found a Chinese patient in the seven-bed hospital at a residential villa at the Clark Freeport and Special Economic Zone northwest of Manila. "The Chinese patients who were brought there may still be walking around in public and can infect other people," police said.



British Prime Minister Boris Johnson says the U.K. will have a "test, track and trace" system for the coronavirus in place by June 1. Johnson told lawmakers in Parliament the government was making "fast progress." He says there will be 25,000 trackers in place by June 1 who will can trace the contacts of 10,000 new cases a day. The current level is 2,400 daily cases. The Labour Party criticized Johnson for not having an effective track and trace system in place.



Brazil As COVID-19 reached remote indigenous lands in the Amazon, the government agency responsible for protecting native people brushed off calls for action, focusing instead on waging ideological battles, according to agents from the institution itself and others. Brazilian President Bolsonaro's repeated promotion of developing the vast Amazon has prompted indigenous activists, celebrities and agents on the ground to sound the alarm. In the face of a spreading pandemic, they warn inaction is enough to wipe out many indigenous people.